



Rose Tips

Velvet Touch Rose
Care

June 2018
Summer Edition

Summer has finally arrived and what a roller coaster ride we've had relative to weather. Agriculture, horticulture and landscape are totally connected to climate and weather conditions. Roses fit into this category.

We had snow and freezing temperatures in April. This slowed new growth and ultimately delayed the first bloom. This was followed by a very dry period that encouraged spider mite activity in several locations. This dry period also happened before many irrigation systems were operational. Then the rains came and continued coming even up to the writing of this article. Record rain fall for May included mass floods. These excessive rains encouraged many fungus diseases in plants including black spot, Anthracnose, leaf spot, and fire blight on apples. These rains also dampened many buds causing them not to fully open.

Now the good news. Weather forecasters are calling for sun and dryer conditions. We are currently in the peak of the spring flush, when all roses bloom for the first time in the season. Hopefully we will enter a normal/weather pattern where we can expect normal rose care treatment. Hopefully the treatments we have provided have slowed the spread of fungus and disease and given you a colorful first show of roses.

As we move into summer we can expect Japanese Beetles to emerge the last week of June. We can also expect spider mites as the temperatures warm and the weather dries.

So far this season we have planted over 600 new rose bushes. We have successfully completed our first fertilization and beginning our second. We are now monitoring climbers that have bloomed and are beginning our trimming and training of these climbers.

I hope this article has given you an overview of the season and how Velvet Touch Rose Care interacts with mother nature to provide you with a healthy and productive rose garden.

David Kinderdine

AS WE MOVE FURTHER INTO THE SUMMER YOU CAN EXPECT:

-Blooming and flower production to slow down. Hot temperatures slow growth and reduce flower size.

-Blooms and size will pick up as we approach fall with its cooler temperatures.

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL, PRODUCTIVE ROSE GARDEN

YOU NEED YOU TO:

- 1- Ensure the roses receive proper water
- 2- Ensure no herbicides or roundup are used in or near your roses. Please notify your landscaper or gardener not to use round up near the roses.
- 3- Ensure trees or shrubs near the roses do not block sunlight.



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Weeding

It is important to keep your rose garden weeded. This is not part of our regular service but we can provide this service at an hourly rate of \$65.00 per hour if you desire us to weed your garden. Let us know.



Round-UP/

We continue to see damage in rose gardens due to round-up or herbicide use on weeds near or in rose gardens. Please instruct your gardener or landscaper not to use round-up near roses.



Rose Availability

We sold out of our entire inventory of roses but were able to secure 60 additional bushes from our source in North Carolina. Check our website for our current inventory and availability. All roses are \$32.00



Water

Please don't forget to water. Soon the rains will stop but your roses will need to be on a regular watering cycle. Roses require significant water.



Mite Control

Spider Mites are very difficult to control because they multiply quickly and develop resistance to miticides, Velvet Touch also uses predatory mites that search for and eat spider mites. We also added a high pressure water treatment to blow spider mites from the leaves.



Rose Midge

We continue to monitor and treat for Rose Midge. Last season we experienced severe outbreaks of Rose Midge. Hopefully we have control on this pest. This insect is very difficult to control. Our website has additional information on this pest.



Japanese Beetles

It's too early to predict how severe the beetles will be this season. Last year the beetle populations varied according to locations and cities. Now is a good time to apply lawn treatments to kill and control the Japanese beetle in the grub phase. Remember if you must use beetle traps place them far away from the roses.

